

ATTN : Mr. [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
THROUGH : Comptroller
Chief, Finance Division

9 September 1953

Finance Officer Pool

1. Reference is made to my discussion with Mr. [REDACTED] of the Wage and Classification Division and Mr. [REDACTED] of the Security Office, regarding the use of unvouchered funds for the payment of Finance Officer Trainees while on temporary duty in training status in Headquarters pending assignment to overseas stations.

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2. As I indicated, it is my opinion that the following factors should be considered in arriving at a decision as to whether this group should be continued on unvouchered funds:

a. This T/O was established on unvouchered funds for the Finance Division for the purpose of recruiting Finance Officers for training and assignment to overseas stations. All persons assigned to this T/O are placed in an overseas undetermined category while in training status and pending reassignment to an overseas T/O. No person recruited for departmental duty is ever initially assigned to this T/O. Thus, while technically the T/O is considered to be departmental, in actual practice it is treated as a field T/O.

b. From the standpoint of security, while assignment to the Finance Division unvouchered T/O does not require covert recruitment, all persons assigned to the T/O are subject to assignment to proprietary projects in a staff agent capacity, as well as to any station under whatever cover, wherever trained Finance Officers are required. To illustrate: At the present time, an incumbent of one of the positions was recruited, trained, and assigned to a proprietary project. After some months the project was terminated, the employee was thereupon returned to the Finance Division unvouchered pool where he has remained for approximately thirty days, and he is now processing to an assignment as Finance Officer of a station under official cover. Another Finance Officer assigned in a staff agent capacity during the current month under proprietary cover, was originally recruited and trained while assigned to the unvouchered T/O; subsequently he was assigned in a staff agent capacity, served a tour, reverted to the unvouchered T/O, and after a period of indoctrination and training, has been assigned to another project in a staff agent capacity.

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c. The status of employees recruited for overseas finance duty and assigned to the Finance Division unvouchered T/O is comparable with employees recruited by the Area Divisions for specific overseas assignments. Inasmuch as Finance Division does not have a foreign T/O as such, however, it is necessary to treat Finance Division employees recruited for overseas duty in an "overseas undetermined" category. It would appear, therefore, that these employees should be payrolled from the same source and subjected to the same conditions of security as employees of the operating divisions recruited for overseas duty. In other words, since these finance employees are recruited for overseas duty and will be assigned to Area Division overseas T/O's, they should be subjected to the same security (including payroll processes) as comparable employees of the Area Divisions. If it is determined that there are no security or other objections to the utilization of vouchered T/O's for such employees, it would be entirely proper for the Finance Officer trainees to be treated in the same manner.

3. In summary, it is my opinion that:

a. The Finance Officer Trainees T/O, although technically classified as departmental, is in effect and practice a field T/O and should be subjected to comparison and review with field T/O's for determination as to whether security and other considerations permit its transfer to vouchered funds.

b. Unless comparable field T/O's of the Area Divisions to which Finance Officer trainees are ultimately assigned are placed on vouchered funds, the treatment of the Finance Officer Trainee T/O as vouchered would impose restrictions and handicaps on the assignment of Finance Officers of such nature as to severely limit ability of this division to carry out effectively its responsibilities for furnishing trained Finance Officers for stations, projects and divisions.

4. With respect to the possibility of reducing the size of the unvouchered T/O by transfer of a limited number of positions to vouchered funds, since Finance Officers may, in some instances, be supplied from departmental personnel, it would be feasible to utilize vouchered funds

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for a portion of the Trainee Pool. Accordingly, there would be no objections on my part to the transfer [REDACTED] the positions to vouchered funds, leaving [REDACTED] positions on unvouchered funds.

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